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Report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS21) and the World Bank on statistical capacity-building

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2016/220 and past practices, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS21) and the World Bank on recent initiatives to draw attention to the importance of strengthening statistical capacity, especially in the context of supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report, which is submitted to the Statistical Commission for information, highlights progress in statistical capacity-building and addresses emerging topics likely to affect national statistical systems, such as the data challenges of the 2030 Agenda and the data revolution. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

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Report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS21) and the World Bank on statistical capacity-building

I. Introduction

1. Over the past five years, the focus of political attention on statistics for the development agenda has grown steadily, and continues to grow. Starting with the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, in November-December 2011, Heads of State, ministers and other representatives of developing and developed countries reaffirmed the need for transparent, country-led and country-level results frameworks. The endorsement of the Busan Action Plan for Statistics represents the first instance of endorsement by global political leadership of a plan for official statistics. The Busan Action Plan, which sets out five priority areas for action that would contribute to large and sustainable improvements in statistical capacity, has three principal objectives: (a) to fully integrate statistics in decision-making; (b) to promote open access to statistics; and (c) to increase resources for statistical systems. The endorsement of the Plan has spawned a number of key activities and initiatives, many of which have been documented in previous reports of PARIS21 and the World Bank (E/CN.3/2015/35 and E/CN.3/2016/26).

2. Since the forty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission and the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, the political attention directed towards and interest in statistics have continued to remain high in the development agenda. The direct reference in the Sustainable Development Goals to monitoring, evaluation and accountability reinforces the critical role statistics will play in that agenda. The goal of target 17.18 is by 2020, to enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

3. Although the level of political attention is currently high, meeting the goals and measuring progress towards their achievement will present the data ecosystem with an unprecedented challenge. The goals will require responsive statistical systems with the capacity to track the development progress of countries across a much broader spectrum of development outcomes and processes. The synthesis report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda (A/69/700) highlighted the need to enhance national and international statistical capacities to bridge the current data gaps in the context of monitoring and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. The need to provide support to developing countries will continue to grow as the demand for timely quality data increases.

4. The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS21) and the World Bank believe that we can build on the progress made in filling critical gaps in our understanding of development challenges and performance. With a view to providing momentum for the implementation of the

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] the present report provides an overview of recent initiatives undertaken by PARIS21 and the World Bank to draw attention to the importance of strengthening statistical capacity, especially in the context of supporting the sustainable development agenda. The report also highlights progress in statistical capacity-building and addresses emerging topics likely to affect national statistical systems, such as the data challenges posed by the 2030 Agenda and the data revolution.

II. Progress in improving official statistics in developing countries

5. Improving official statistics in low-capacity environments requires activities on two fronts. First, strengthening of the national statistical system (i.e., effecting "horizontal" improvements to the system) is required for effective and efficient delivery of statistical products. Core activities in support of this goal include strengthening the institutional and legal framework and the overarching data production framework. On the second front, there must be a focus on improving the source data underlying key socioeconomic indicators (i.e., on delivering sector-specific "vertical" improvements to specific survey production and dissemination processes).

6. Examined below are selected efforts across a broad spectrum of supportive activities being engaged in on these two fronts. The aim is not to cover all of the ongoing activities in support of capacity-building in Member States but rather to provide the Statistical Commission with a perspective on the activities selected for consideration.

7. PARIS21 remains the leader in designing and supporting horizontal improvements to statistical systems. The long-standing support to developing countries is being provided through the design, implementation and monitoring of national strategies for the development of statistics. An expert reference group, with representatives from national statistical offices and regional organizations within all regions, has been established to continue the work centred around the guidelines for those national strategies on further addressing specific issues and aligning the guidelines to the latest developments in the context of the international agenda. Additional updates have been made encompassing countries that are undertaking their first national strategy for the development of statistics, fragile States, sectoral strategies, subnational strategies, regional strategies, the costing of the national strategies, the data revolution and the 2030 Agenda. The guidelines are already available in four languages (English, French, Portuguese and Spanish); they have also been translated into Arabic and more recent examples, tools and good practices have been included. A cross-regional workshop on shaping subnational statistical systems to meet the requirements of the Sustainable Development Goals was organized in Paris to further strengthen the subnational component of the national strategy guidelines. The PARIS21 secretariat has directly supported over 26 countries in their work on formulating national strategies for the development of statistics and three regions (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean) in

[1] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

conducting the processes needed to formulate regional strategies for the development of statistics, specifically regarding reviews and evaluations, training and/or preparation of strategic plans. PARIS21 has also continued to raise the awareness of future statisticians and decision makers on the national strategies through lectures in schools of statistics and business administration in the African region.

8. Horizontal improvements require supporting regional activities. PARIS21 has provided continuous support to national and regional statistical development initiatives around the world. In order to strengthen regional economic integration, PARIS21 continues to support regional economic bodies in developing regional strategies for the development of statistics. In 2016, work was initiated with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Caribbean Community to develop and roll out regional statistics strategies. Moreover, PARIS21 remains committed to providing support and guidance to national statistical systems that face greater statistical development challenges such as those of small island developing States and fragile States, which is considered a priority under the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2016, PARIS21 engaged with the national statistical systems, of 18 small island developing States and 18 fragile States. The aim of a cross-regional forum on "Agenda 2030 and small island developing States: strengthening statistical capacity and readiness", which was conducted in Paris in May 2016, was to evaluate the current statistical capacities, readiness levels, experiences and good practices, and common tools and systems in small island developing States in order to address the existing and anticipated data demands arising from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway).[2] The forum also focused on how to improve the capacity to respond to data requirements arising from global development agendas.

9. Through its activities, which complement those of PARIS21, the World Bank has continued to provide financial and technical assistance directed towards improving national strategies for better statistics and implementing the priorities set out in such strategies, including through trust funds. Lending operations of the World Bank have continued to provide support for national strategies in countries such as Kazakhstan, Kenya, South Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania. Further lending operations are under preparation in several countries, including Bangladesh, Gabon and Mali. The Statistics for Results Facility Catalytic Fund has provided larger-scale support to eight countries eligible to receive International Development Association (IDA) resources, including Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building has extended support to several countries (20 new capacity-building projects were approved in 2016) aimed at improving facets of their statistics. Three countries that are members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) (Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan) have benefited from a regional World Bank-managed statistical capacity-building programme established in 2012.

10. PARIS21, the World Bank and other international organizations are supporting vertical improvements to statistical systems focused on specific indicators, products

[2] General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

and services. The World Bank, the multilateral development banks and regional agencies have engaged in various capacity-building and technical assistance activities in different regions designed to enhance country capacity in the areas of national accounts, prices and purchasing power parities. In Asia, the Asian Development Bank organized two regional workshops: in Bangkok in June 2016 and in Manila in September 2016. The Asian Development Bank also supports countries through the construction of supply and use tables and the estimation of subnational purchasing power parities. The CIS Interstate Statistical Committee held a regional meeting on the implementation of the System of National Accounts, 2008 (2008 SNA) in Minsk in April 2016, and a regional meeting on quality analysis of price statistics, also in Minsk in October 2016. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) organized a national accounts seminar in Santiago in November 2016. Two regional workshops were organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in that region: in Istanbul in January 2016 and in Cairo in September 2016. Moreover, ESCWA provided technical assistance to countries in estimating subnational purchasing power parities. The World Bank supported regional partners through the provision of financial and technical assistance in implementing these capacity-building activities.

11. Together with the World Bank, PARIS21 has been highly active over several years in implementing microdata documentation and dissemination work with national statistical offices. The Accelerated Data Programme and the International Household Survey Network programme, implemented by PARIS21, ended in 2015. While funding for the Accelerated Data Programme derived from the Development Grant Facility of the World Bank terminated at the end of 2015, the World Bank continues to support Accelerated Data Programme activities and Survey Network coordination, with financial support from the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DfID). The World Bank provides a mixture of direct and remote assistance to countries in support of their Microdata Cataloguing Tool (NADA) data catalogues. The World Bank also encourages the embedment of Accelerated Data Programme activities (data documentation and dissemination) in other survey-related activities sponsored by the Bank and other entities. One example in this regard entails support provided for data archiving in the OECS region.

12. The World Bank also continues to focus on the development and improvement of tools and guidelines, including the development of a new metadata editor, improvement of the NADA software and contributions to the R-sdcMicro anonymization package and various guidelines on data management and analysis. Further, the World Bank remains a strong advocate for the use of standards for the documentation of surveys through the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) and participates in the working group geared towards the development of DDI 4 which will ensure relevance for countries. The World Bank continues to support the development of the question bank, with continued support to Rwanda and will extend support to one or two other countries in 2017. The World Bank is also an active contributor to the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys, whose work complements that of the International Household Survey Network. Within the Working Group, the Bank is leading the task team on microdata documentation and dissemination.

13. The ramping up by the World Bank of its support for data production in member countries, most notably for household surveys, complements the activities described above. With funding from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity-Building, the World Bank is providing financial and technical support to 40 countries. It has also committed to working alongside its partners, most notably national statistical offices and other international organizations, in conducting national surveys that will assess whether people's lives are improving.

14. Although the work undertaken by PARIS21 within the context of the Accelerated Data Programme and the International Household Survey Network is no longer being implemented through programmes within the Partnership, it has been recognized that there is a need to retain and develop a data-related approach to supporting the national strategy for the development of statistics process. PARIS21 has initiated a small cross-regional form of data activity that is lighter and more flexible and responds to country needs as well as the needs of the international community. In 2016 and 2017, the data focus for PARIS21 will be the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and preparation of countries for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. PARIS21, which has adopted a broad approach, is working with various partners including the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the regional commissions, such as the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and ESCWA, in undertaking country-based readiness assessments. In its previous report (E/CN.3/2016/26), PARIS21 reported the development of a data module designed to assist countries in planning their statistical operations (para. 20). The tool, which has evolved, is now called the Advanced Data Planning Tool (ADAPT). The Planning Tool, which is being piloted in six countries, essentially maps national priorities to the Sustainable Development Goals and allows a country to prioritize and budget the data-collection operations required for reporting on the Goals. This costing functionality then interfaces with a planning module of the national strategy for the development of statistics to provide a comprehensive and integrated approach to developing national statistical systems. It is hoped that this process of evaluating a national statistical system will allow for better planning and resource allocation for investments in statistical processes. It is important to note that three of the six pilot countries are also participants in the Statistics Division project, under the ninth tranche of the Development Account, on enhancing national statistical capacity to measure, monitor, assess and report on progress on achieving post-2015 goals and targets for sustainable development. In collaboration with the Statistics Division, PARIS21 has incorporated many of the processes that have been utilized by the Division in its project for evaluating Sustainable Development Goals-related readiness within the context of the Advanced Data Planning Tool. As a result, the Planning Tool may provide a sustainable platform for the extension of assessment to other countries and its replication as a best practice for assessing country readiness for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring.

15. Another work stream of the new data focus that builds upon previous work on the data revolution undertaken by PARIS21 entails the development of the Platform for Innovations in Statistics (PISTA). The aim of the Platform is to accelerate the adoption of innovative approaches in the statistical business processes of national statistical systems by matching collected statistical capacity information on innovations and assessment data using an internationally recognized framework, as

proposed by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) High-level Group for the Modernization of Official Statistics, namely, the Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organizations (GAMSO). A key focus in 2017 for the Platform will be the development of a front-end assessment which will help map identified problems to potential solutions.

16. Any efforts in the areas of planning and production will create value for society only if they are followed by strong data dissemination plans and only if users can understand and use the available information. In this regard, PARIS21 is working to deepen the use of official statistics. In order to increase the knowledge and skills needed to disseminate and use statistics effectively for planning, analysis, monitoring and evaluation, PARIS21 has developed an online data visualization training toolkit. The toolkit documents the recommendations of PARIS21 in respect of undertaking data visualization and communication training programmes on a wide range of topics including: (a) data visualization foundations, (b) the journalist-statistician dialogue on data communication, (c) design of infographics and (d) an analytics module on interactive graphs and maps. The modules of the toolkit were used for training programmes in Botswana, the Gambia, Ghana and Sao Tome and Principe. In Sao Tome and Principe, statisticians and journalists gathered to increase dialogue between national statistical offices and the media. Data visualization workshops, which involved communications officers and spokespersons of line ministries and statisticians from national statistical offices, were held in Botswana and the Gambia. The workshops aimed at promoting statistical literacy, ensuring that statistical materials target the right audience and also ensuring that citizens develop a better understanding of statistical information. In Ghana, the training programme allowed participants to gain expertise in use of the open-source statistical software package R for data visualization and to produce interactive graphs for the website of the statistical office.

17. To measure the progress made on improving statistical literacy, a PARIS21-led task team has developed a first composite indicator to measure global statistical literacy. This indicator will be reported on as part of the Busan Action Plan for Statistics logical framework agreed upon at the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in 2011. Using articles from daily Rich Site Summary (RSS) feeds of the top five national newspapers, the indicator provides an indirect measure of the use of and critical engagement with statistics in the media. The writing of journalists can be viewed as an indicator of a nation's demand for statistical facts and depth of critical analysis. The focus on the top five national newspapers ensures that the indicator reflects to a large extent the nation's consumption of statistical facts and information. The fact that newspaper articles are generally available renders them representative of the literacy of country's population.

18. Another equally important work component involves ensuring that sufficient resources are being directed to statistical systems. The PARIS21 annual Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS) exercise provides a snapshot of ongoing financial support to statistical development across the globe and presents an overview of major trends. Findings from the latest (2016) Partner Report round indicate, inter alia, that (a) the level of support to statistics reached $470 million in calendar year 2014, a figure that is on par with the $448 million in commitments for 2013; (b) the share of official development assistance (ODA) dedicated to statistics was 0.25 per cent in 2014, mirroring the similarly low level (0.24 per cent) in 2013;

(c) demographic and social statistics received the most support ($141 million), followed by economic statistics ($128 million) and general and methodological issues ($104 million); and (d) the top five providers of development cooperation in statistics (Canada; the European Commission/Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT); the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the International Monetary Fund (IMF); and the World Bank) continued to provide a large share (72 per cent) of total commitments in 2014.

19. PARIS21 continues to support national statistical offices in launching the Country Report on Support to Statistics (CRESS) at the country level. The Country Report is based on the Partner Report exercise conducted at the international level. The Country Report, which gathers all data related to the funding of the national statistical system whether derived from domestic resources or external aid, has been implemented in six countries (Burundi, Cambodia, the Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and Viet Nam) in 2016. In addition, PARIS21 has brought together national statistical organizations and heads of aid coordination units of 12 African countries in order to facilitate donor coordination and funding of statistical development.

III. Leveraging the strength of collective actions

20. Delivering on the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development — and the data agenda is no exception in this regard — will require collective action. The data needs of developing countries must be championed, and all actors will need to remain as engaged as possible so as to ensure that those needs remain in the forefront. National statistical systems will play a crucial role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the data revolution at the country level. At the same time, multilateral partnerships, cooperation and coordination are elements key to ushering in an effective data revolution at the local, national, regional and international levels. Strengthening existing partnerships and initiating new collaborations will be essential to building capacity and strengthening national statistical systems so as enable them to deliver on the 2030 Agenda and measure implementation. Luckily, traditional partners are beginning to expand their horizons, and a broad range of new development players perceive official statistics as key to delivering on the agenda. These new actors are providing fresh ideas, experiences and technologies which can foster collaborations and new approaches to improving statistics. Various initiatives that can support those new actors within the data ecosystem are already in place.

21. The report entitled "A world that counts: mobilising the data revolution for sustainable development", prepared by the United Nations Secretary-General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development (IEAG), was issued in November 2014. Pursuant to one of the main recommendations contained in that report, the Statistical Commission agreed that a United Nations World Forum on Sustainable Development Data would be the suitable platform for intensifying cooperation with various professional groups, such as the information technology community, geospatial information managers, data scientists and users, as well as civil society stakeholders. Under the guidance of the Commission and the support of the Statistics Division, the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda

for Sustainable Development, in close consultation with Member States and international partners, including the World Bank and PARIS21, will be leading the discussion on the organization of the World Forum, to be hosted by Statistics South Africa in Cape Town from 15 to 18 January 2017.

22. In addition to drafting a concept note for the organization of the United Nations World Forum, the High-level Group drafted a global action plan for sustainable development data which calls both for a full, active and focused commitment of government, policy leaders and the international community to implement the sustainable development agenda, and for policy leaders to achieve a global pact or alliance which recognizes that funding modernization efforts of national statistical offices is essential to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Both PARIS21 and the World Bank stand ready to support the implementation of the United Nation World Forum and the global action plan for sustainable development data.

23. The World Bank has also responded to the call of the Independent Expert Advisory Group for a new funding stream to support the data revolution for sustainable development. The establishment of an "innovations window" within the Bank's Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity-Building has as its goal the catalysing of innovations in technologies and approach, where needs are continuous or recurrent, and where techniques can be readily adapted to other regions and sectors. In collaboration with the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, the Bank identified and has begun to support about 20 innovations in the production, analysis and use of data for and about development. The projects, which are being implemented across more than 20 countries and five regions, are closely linked with the Sustainable Development Goals and will document learning with respect to which new approaches work and how they can best be applied.

24. The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, which was launched in September 2015, brings together over 150 champions who represent the full range of data producers and users critical to harnessing the data revolution for sustainable development. It is led by Governments, companies, civil society organizations, international organizations, academic institutions, foundations, statistics agencies and data communities from around the world. The Global Partnership aims at sustaining political commitment, aligning strategic priorities and norms, strengthening capacities, fostering innovation and building trust within the current data ecosystem. This international multi-stakeholder initiative will attempt to leverage and amplify current efforts that have the potential to harness the data revolution by encouraging knowledge sharing and learning, mobilizing new and making better use of existing resources, and facilitating collaborations capable of addressing the barriers to producing, accessing and using data towards achievement of sustainable development.

25. As there is still much work to be done on the data agenda, the World Bank and PARIS21, through building on a strong foundation, securing a broader group of partners to provide new ideas and approaches and leveraging political support, will continue to focus their efforts on drawing attention to the importance of strengthening statistical capacity and making the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development a success.

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Report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange sponsors

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2016/220 and past practice, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) sponsors. The present report summarizes achievements, recent developments and planned activities by the SDMX initiative, in areas such as macroeconomic statistics, international merchandise trade statistics and the Sustainable Development Goals, among others. An overview of SDMX-related capacity development plans is also included.

The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

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Report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange sponsors

Summary

The present document provides an overview of the progress made with regard to the implementation of Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) standards since the previous report, submitted to the Commission in March 2015. The scope of SDMX implementation is widening, with data exchange already established in such statistical domains as national accounts and balance of payments, while development is underway in such areas as the Sustainable Development Goals, labour, prices, education and international merchandise trade. In addition to benefits resulting from the automation of data exchange, including improvements in timeliness and reliability, an increasing number of statistical agencies are using open-source, SDMX-based software in enterprise architecture, which enables them to realize substantial improvements in productivity and cost-efficiency.

I. Introduction

1. In 2001, the Bank for International Settlements, the European Central Bank, Eurostat, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations joined together to develop more efficient processes and standards for exchanging and sharing data and metadata. The World Bank joined the initial group of sponsor organizations in 2003. The commitment of the sponsor organizations to the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) initiative was reinforced in 2007 by a memorandum of understanding that established an SDMX secretariat and set the framework for the creation of two working groups: the SDMX Technical Standards Working Group and the SDMX Statistical Working Group.

2. The aim of the SDMX initiative is to create and maintain technical and statistical standards and guidelines, together with an information technology architecture and information technology tools, to be used and implemented by the SDMX sponsors and other organizations dealing with statistical data and exchange metadata. Combined with modern information technology, these SDMX standards and guidelines should lead to improved efficiency when managing statistical business processes. After more than 10 years of experience, the SDMX standards and guidelines have progressed sufficiently to be broadly implemented in statistical domains and, globally, by statistics organizations.

3. The Statistical Commission has received SDMX progress reports since 2002. The Commission recognized and supported the SDMX standards and guidelines in 2008 as the preferred standard for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata, requesting the SDMX sponsors to continue their work and to encourage national and international statistics organizations to increase the use and implementation of SDMX.

II. New developments

Road map 2020

4. In March 2016, the sponsors released a document entitled "SDMX Roadmap 2020", presenting a vision of where SDMX is heading in the next few years. In the document, the sponsors identify the following four main priority areas for work:

(a) Strengthening the implementation of SDMX;

(b) Making data usage easier, especially for policy use;

(c) Modernizing statistical processes and improving the SDMX standard and the information technology infrastructure;

(d) Improving communication.

5. The road map is complemented by a rolling medium-term action plan for sponsor organizations, with deadlines and responsibilities. The full road map, with its key objectives, is published at https://sdmx.org/wp-content/uploads/SDMX_roadmap2020_FINAL.pdf.

Sustainable Development Goals

6. At its third meeting, held from 30 March to 1 April 2016, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators established the Working Group on SDMX. The Working Group, composed of representatives of Governments and international agencies, is mandated to develop an SDMX-based solution for the exchange and dissemination of Sustainable Development Goal indicator data and metadata. The workplan of the Working Group has been approved and envisages setting up a pilot data exchange in the fourth quarter of 2017 and a production-level exchange of data and metadata by the end of 2018.

International merchandise trade statistics

7. An inter-agency working group comprising Eurostat, the International Trade Centre, OECD, the Statistics Division (acting as the secretariat and Chair of the working group) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was established in 2013 to support the implementation of SDMX standards in international merchandise trade statistics. The working group seeks to specify uniform structures, concepts, definitions and code lists for international merchandise trade statistics data and metadata that comply with the latest version of the SDMX standard (2.1) and follow the latest recommendations contained in the document entitled "International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions 2010" (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/52/Rev.3). The design of the draft data structure definition for an SDMX framework for international merchandise trade statistics was completed early in May 2015 and released for global consultation and public review, which was conducted in mid-2015, in order to receive broad input on the proposed data structure definition. The results of the global consultation were analysed and integrated into the revised global dataset structure definition for international merchandise trade statistics. This revised version and the relevant documents were submitted to the SDMX secretariat and made available at http://comtrade.un.org/sdmx in mid-2016. In addition, the working group and other relevant partner organizations are now developing implementation strategies and undertaking capacity-building activities in various countries, such as the establishment of a pilot implementation project with Mexico and Morocco.

Labour statistics

8. A global project on SDMX for labour statistics has been started, and the artefacts are expected to be published in the fourth quarter of 2017.

Education statistics

9. A global project on SDMX for education statistics is underway, and the artefacts are expected to be published in the first half of 2017.

III. Ongoing technical work

Macroeconomic statistics

10. The Ownership Group for SDMX in Macroeconomic Statistics has overseen the successful implementation of SDMX for national accounts, balance of payments

and foreign direct investments based on the global data structure definitions available for those domains since 2014. While national implementations continue to be carried out, on an international level, the Task Force on International Data Cooperation is looking into further leveraging the standard for automated international data exchange. A dataset for national accounts (gross domestic product and population) is in production, and further work (sector accounts and balance of payments) is envisaged. Work is also underway to create global data structure definitions for price indexes, starting in 2017 with the consumer price index and the harmonized index of consumer prices. Both the Ownership Group and the Task Force were to meet in Luxembourg in December 2016 to discuss further next steps.

Enhanced General Data Dissemination System and Special Data Dissemination Standard Plus

11. IMF has increased its efforts to support countries participating in the enhanced General Data Dissemination System to establish a national data portal for macroeconomic and financial statistics (national summary data page) that allows for data dissemination to the general public for human users and in SDMX format, in accordance with an advanced release calendar. A similar data dissemination approach, with an SDMX-enabled national summary data page, was introduced in 2014 for countries already adhering to the Special Data Dissemination Standard Plus. By November 2016, 10 enhanced General Data Dissemination System participants were already offering data dissemination in SDMX format by means of their national summary data page, in addition to the 11 countries adhering to the Special Data Dissemination Standard Plus.

SDMX Central

12. IMF has developed a cloud-based Excel-to-SDMX converter service that is integrated with the IMF SDMX registry and notification services. This cloud-based product, called SDMX Central, is aimed at facilitating the generation of statistical data files in SDMX format, compliant with the SDMX data structures used for the Special Data Dissemination Standard Plus and the enhanced General Data Dissemination System.

SMDX in pull mode

13. In the context of international data cooperation for macroeconomic statistics, investigations are ongoing among selected sponsor organizations to further automate the exchange of data by using pull techniques supported by web services and notifications.

Trade statistics

14. In March 2016, the World Bank released two web services in the field of trade statistics, both based on a representational state transfer (REST) system architecture for SDMX. One service was for the UNCTAD Trade Analysis and Information System database and the other was the aggregated trade statistics database, TradeStats, both of which are available through the World Integrated Trade Solution website.

Global Registry

15. The SDMX Global Registry emerged from the decision of SDMX-sponsoring institutions to launch the development of global data structure definitions to support the worldwide technical implementation of the sixth edition of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual and the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA). The Global Registry contains metadata, data structure definitions and related artefacts (such as concept schemes, metadata structure definitions and code lists), as well as other SDMX data structure definitions and artefacts maintained and used by international organizations (maintenance agencies). All the structures and artefacts held by the Global Registry are public and made centrally available to the SDMX community. The current version of the Global Registry was published in November 2015. The World Bank conducted an information security scan of the Global Registry in December 2015 and provided a vulnerability report; the vulnerabilities identified were fixed under the supervision of the European Central Bank.

IV. Capacity-building

16. The Statistics Division is planning or conducting a number of capacity-building activities in several areas. With respect to the Sustainable Development Goals, the Division is about to launch a project, funded by the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to establish an SDMX-based dissemination and exchange of Sustainable Development Goal indicators and metadata with 20 countries in Asia and Africa. As part of another large-scale project, funded under the tenth tranche of the Development Account, the regional commissions and the Statistics Division will conduct a series of workshops and training events on SDMX implementation in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Division is also undertaking a number of capacity-building activities in conjunction with the implementation of SDMX for international merchandise trade statistics.

17. In 2016, Eurostat developed an implementation strategy, entitled "SDMX implementation: laying the path to 2020", based on the SDMX road map. This is a direct, "how-to" response to the higher-level commitments outlined in the road map. Capacity-building is an important part of the Eurostat SDMX implementation strategy, which foresees the following actions:

(a) To redesign the SDMX Info Space website in three languages, English, French and German, which will result in easier access to information on SDMX implementations, supporting tools for SDMX-based data exchange, tutorials and training dates and materials, among other benefits;

(b) To improve communication with senior managers and subject matter experts;

(c) To offer further training through new recorded webinar opportunities and changes in course content;

(d) To support the member States of the European Statistical System in the implementation of SDMX tools.

18. OECD organizes and participates in capacity-building events linked to the SDMX Global Conferences and SDMX Expert Group meetings. This has resulted in many sessions on SDMX implementation and the use of best practices linked to the SDMX guidelines. For the 2016 SDMX Expert Group meeting, OECD organized breakout sessions on how to design and build an enterprise architecture with SDMX and on what is needed to make SDMX implementation easier.

19. On an ad hoc basis, the European Central Bank organizes special one-day workshops for data vendors. The workshops are tailored to the needs of technical staff, whose responsibilities are to identify, collect and ensure the continuous update of data and statistics within the data vendor industry and/or among large-volume data users. At the workshops, special training is offered to introduce the SDMX standard, SDMX data structures and SDMX web services. Furthermore, in 2015 and 2016, the Bank made SDMX Java Suite available to the SDMX community when it published, on sdmxTools.org, several updates of its Java Suite, which makes it possible to load and convert SDMX files of the following formats: SDMX-EDI, SDMX 2.0 compact, SDMX 2.1 structure-specific, MarketMap/Fame and comma-separated values (CSV). SDMX Java Suite also facilitates the reading of data structure definition files in SDMX-EDI format and is the backbone of the SDMX system used by the European Central Bank and several national central banks.

V. Technical and statistical standards

20. The SDMX Technical Standards Working Group and the SDMX Statistical Working Group are mainly responsible for the management and enhancement of SDMX technical and statistical standards and the related SDMX information technology applications.

21. The work of the SDMX Technical Standards Working Group focused on the following main deliverables: the validation and transformation language (VTL), additional formats for data dissemination, and the continuous maintenance of the SDMX technical standards. The Task Force for the Validation and Transformation Language finalized a first version of the language specification, which was published on the SDMX website in March 2015. A public review of the second, updated version of the VTL specification was opened in 2016. The Technical Standards Working Group is currently incorporating support for VTL in the SDMX technical standards. The Technical Standards Working Group published a new version of the application programming interface specification for REST-based (RESTful) SDMX web services, with bug fixes and minor new features. Updated specifications for the data exchange format for the SDMX JavaScript object notation (SDMX-JSON) were also released for public review. The Technical Standards Working Group and Statistical Working Group organized capacity-building sessions at the SDMX Global Conference held in 2015. The Technical Standards Working Group adopted a new work programme early in 2016 with four main work streams: the validation and transformation language, the SDMX information model, data exchange formats and the application programming interfaces. Further work is ongoing in all these work streams, including an analysis of user requirements for possible major updates to the SDMX information model.

22. In 2015 and 2016, the SDMX Statistical Working Group published guidelines that included confidentiality and embargo best practices, non-calendar year reporting, a checklist for SDMX design project management and instructions on how to code time transformations and how to model a statistical domain for data exchange. The Statistical Working Group is currently working on several items, including a green paper for developments to the SDMX standard according to business requirements, a global metadata structure definition and several new cross-domain code lists.

VI. Events

23. The fifth SDMX Global Conference was held from 28 to 30 September 2015 in Bangkok, marking the first time that it was held outside Europe or North America. The Conference was hosted jointly by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Statistics Division. The Conference, the theme of which was "SDMX in Action", was attended by over 170 participants from national statistical offices, central banks, international agencies and private sector organizations, representing all regions of the world. A one-day capacity-building session preceded the meeting. The evaluation survey showed a very high approval rating (over 90 per cent) and indicated that participants were interested in implementing SDMX at their agencies.

24. The eighth SDMX Expert Group meeting was held on 19 and 20 October 2016 at the National Institute of Statistics and Geography headquarters in Aguascalientes, Mexico. The meeting was preceded by a two-day capacity-building session and was attended by 96 participants — a record for the event — from 18 national statistical offices, 9 central banks, 2 government ministries, 10 international organizations and 3 independent consultants. Participation covered Europe, Africa, Asia, Australasia and North and South America. The Expert Group meeting comprised a panel session, presentations on SDMX implementation in national statistical offices, central banks and international organizations, discussions on specific topics such as modernization standards and requirements for the next version of SDMX, and breakout sessions on facilitating SDMX implementations and on envisaging enterprise architecture with SDMX at the core.

25. The sixth SDMX Global Conference will be hosted jointly by the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank in Addis Ababa, from 2 to 4 October 2017, with the opening day of the Conference being organized by the SDMX sponsors and devoted to capacity-building. The programme of the Conference is currently being prepared; emphasis will be placed on presenting recent developments and initiatives in the area of data exchange and on the benefits realized by various national and international statistics organizations resulting from the use of SDMX tools in their enterprise architecture.

VII. Action required by the Statistical Commission

26. The Statistical Commission is invited to take note of the present report.

United Nations E/CN.3/2017/33

Economic and Social Council

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Statistical Commission
Forty-eighth session
7-10 March 2017
Item 4 (m) of the provisional agenda*
Items for information: follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

Policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2016/220 and past practices, the Secretary-General is honoured to transmit a report in order to brief the Statistical Commission on the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Council adopted in 2016, or earlier, that are relevant to its work. The report also indicates the actions that were taken or are proposed by the Commission and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in an effort to respond to the requests made by the Assembly and the Council. The Commission is invited to take note of the present report.

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Policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission

I. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

1. In its resolution 70/1, the General Assembly adopted the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". Under the 2030 Agenda, Heads of State and Government and High Representatives agreed to intensify their efforts to strengthen statistical capacities in developing countries and expressed their commitment to developing broader measures of progress to complement gross domestic product.

2. Under the 2030 Agenda, Heads of State and Government and High Representatives also envisioned a global indicator framework which would be developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and agreed by the Statistical Commission by March 2016. The framework would be adopted thereafter by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. Heads of State and Government specified that the framework would be simple yet robust, address all Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including for means of implementation, and preserve the political balance, integration and ambition contained therein.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat

3. The Statistical Commission will have before it notes by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (E/CN.3/2017/2) and the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (E/CN.3/2017/3).

4. The formation of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group was endorsed by the Statistical Commission in its decision 46/101 (E/2015/24, chap. I.C). The report of the Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators describes the continuing work of the Group, carried out in an open, inclusive and transparent manner, for the implementation of the global indicator framework based on the work programme agreed at the forty-seventh session of the Commission. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group held two physical meetings in 2016, one in Mexico City in March and one in Geneva in November, each attended by close to 200 representatives of countries, international and regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector.

5. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group has established a tier system to help implement the indicators in order to realize the full ambitions set out in the 2030 Agenda. The Group has established three working groups: on the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX), on geospatial information, and on interlinkages, and a work stream on data disaggregation. In response to the decision of the Statistical Commission, the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group also offers specific proposals for refinements of current indicators and future reviews of the indicator framework.

6. The report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development describes the continuing work of the High-level Group. The Group held two meetings following the forty-seventh session of the Commission to discuss and develop the global action plan for sustainable development data and prepare the first United Nations World Forum on Sustainable Development Data, which will be held from 15 to 18 January 2017 in Cape Town, South Africa.

II. High-level political forum on sustainable development 2016 and 2017

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

7. Under the 2030 Agenda, Heads of State and Government and High Representatives determined that the follow-up and review at the high-level political forum on sustainable development would be informed by an annual progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals to be prepared by the Secretary-General in cooperation with the United Nations system, based on the global indicator framework and data produced by national statistical systems and information collected at the regional level. The theme of the high-level political forum held from 11 to 20 July 2016 was "Ensuring that no one is left behind".

8. In its resolution 70/299, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the meetings of the high-level political forum would be informed by an annual progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the theme for the high-level political forum in 2017 under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council would be "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world" and that the sets of Sustainable Development Goals to be reviewed in depth should be Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 14.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

9. The Statistical Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the work for the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/CN.3/2017/4). The report describes the work of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, in cooperation with the United Nations system, on preparing the first annual progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals based on the global indicator

framework, as developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators.

10. The first report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2016/75), which was issued on 3 June 2016, served as an input into the discussions held at the high-level political forum. The report provides a global overview of the current situation regarding the Sustainable Development Goals, on the basis of the latest available data for indicators in the proposed global framework. For most of the indicators presented in the report, values represented regional and/or subregional aggregates. They were calculated from national data collected by international agencies, based on their respective mandates and specialized expertise, from national statistical systems. The national data were often adjusted for international comparability and, where lacking, estimations were made by international agencies.

11. In addition to the issuance of the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, there was the launch by the Secretary-General, on 19 July 2016, during the ministerial segment of the high-level political forum, of *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2016*.[1] The *Report*, which presents data and analysis on Sustainable Development Goals for a wider audience, in a user-friendly format, with charts, infographics and analysis for selected indicators for which data were already available, built upon official data provided by Member States and was the result of collaboration across the entire United Nations system.

12. Besides the two reports described directly above, a statistical annex containing global regional aggregates of the indicators was also released. The two reports represent the first official global efforts to monitor the 2030 Agenda and will serve as a key benchmark throughout the period of implementation of the 2030 Agenda extending over the next 15 years. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2016* is also presented on an interactive platform on the Statistics Division Sustainable Development Goals indicators website.

III. Global geospatial information management

A. Action requested by the Economic and Social Council

13. In its resolution 2016/27, the Economic and Social Council decided to broaden and strengthen the mandate of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management as the relevant body on geospatial information consisting of government experts. In the same resolution, the Council noted the increasing role and relevance of the Committee of Experts and its acknowledged efforts in streamlining the subsidiary bodies of the Council on geospatial information matters, and requested that the Committee report back to the Council, no later than in five years' time, on the implementation of resolution 2016/27 as well as on its continued efforts to work with the Statistical Commission and with the entire United Nations system, and to integrate geospatial and statistical information systems and, in that

[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.16.I.10.

context, to examine the strengthening of the institutional arrangements of the Committee.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

14. The Statistical Commission considered the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (E/CN.3/2016/31) at its forty-seventh session and took note of the major outcomes of its second meeting, held in Lisbon on 24 May 2015, and a side event convened on the margins of the fifth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, held in New York from 3 to 7 August 2015. The report also provided information on a consultative meeting of the Expert Group with regard to the review of its work programme and the preparation and formulation of plans for future progress. At the forty-eighth session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Expert Group prepared for consideration at that session (E/CN.3/2017/9).

IV. New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

15. Under the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/1, Heads of State and Government and High Representatives recognized the importance of improved data collection on refugees and migrants, particularly by national authorities, and would enhance international cooperation to that end, including through capacity-building, financial support and technical assistance, and affirmed that refugee and migrant data should be disaggregated by sex and age and include information on regular and irregular flows, the economic impacts of migration and refugee movements, human trafficking, the needs of refugees, migrants and host communities and other issues.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

16. In its decision 47/111 (E/2016/24, chap. I.B), which was based on a joint proposal by Statistics Norway, the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat), the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Statistical Commission endorsed the recommendation for the establishment of an expert group on refugee statistics. In the same decision, the Commission requested the Expert Group to develop recommendations on refugee statistics, as a reference guide for national and international work concerning asylum statistics, and a refugee statistics compilers manual, as operational instructions on how to collect refugee statistics, in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including migration authorities and offices in charge of registration of displaced persons; and also requested that the Expert Group include statistics on internally displaced persons in its future scope of work.

17. The Statistical Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics (E/CN.3/2017/19). In the annex to that report, it is mentioned that six workshops on migration statistics were or will be organized by the Statistics Division in collaboration with the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat: five were held between November 2014 and December 2016, and one was planned for early 2017. In the report, it is also mentioned that the Statistics Division has joined the Expert Group on Refugee Statistics. The Expert Group, led by Statistics Norway, Eurostat and UNHCR, aims at developing a set of international recommendations on refugee statistics by 2018, as a reference guide for national and international work concerning statistics on refugees and asylum seekers. The Expert Group, which held its first meeting on 7 and 8 November 2016, will conduct a global consultation on the draft recommendations on refugee statistics and submit the recommendations to the Commission for adoption at its forty-ninth session in 2018.

V. Inclusive development for persons with disabilities

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

18. In its resolution 71/165 on inclusive development for persons with disabilities, the General Assembly stressed the importance of collecting and analysing reliable data on persons with disabilities following existing guidelines on disability statistics and their updates, encouraged ongoing efforts to improve data collection in order to disaggregate data with regard to persons with disabilities by gender and age, and underlined the need for internationally comparable data to assess progress on development policies that are inclusive of persons with disabilities.

19. In the same resolution, the General Assembly expressed its concern that the lack of high-quality data required to provide viable baselines and measure progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals for persons with disabilities posed a significant challenge to effectively monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for persons with disabilities; and that the continuing lack of reliable statistics and data as well as information on the situation of persons with disabilities at the national, regional and global levels contributed to their exclusion in official statistics, presenting an obstacle to achieving development planning and implementation that were inclusive of persons with disabilities.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

20. The Statistical Commission will have before it, for discussion, the report of the Secretary-General on social statistics (E/CN.3/2017/11). In the report, it is mentioned that the Statistics Division, with the financial support of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Government of Australia, relaunched its disability statistics programme in May 2015. In collaboration with regional commissions and other relevant regional organizations, the World Health Organization and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, the Statistics Division has organized or will organize six regional meetings on disability

measurement and statistics in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme. Three workshops were held in 2016 and three are scheduled for 2017.

21. The objectives of the regional meetings are to: (a) review and discuss national experiences regarding approaches taken to measuring the population with disabilities during national censuses of the 2010 round, including challenges faced and lessons learned; (b) provide an opportunity to discuss strategies for compilation of data on disability for the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals; and (c) share national experiences among participating countries and facilitate intraregional cooperation aimed at enhancing national capacity in disability measurement and improving the quality of data for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals. These regional workshops and other information-gathering exercises will provide input for an expert group meeting in 2017 to revise the *Guidelines and Principles for the Development of Disability Statistics* which was published in 2001.[2]

VI. Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world

A. Action requested by the General Assembly

22. In its resolution 2016/8, the Economic and Social Council encouraged Member States, the United Nations system and all relevant stakeholders to improve data collection, analysis and monitoring to measure progress in advancing equality, social justice and participation for development policy planning, implementation and evaluation, taking regional contexts fully into account, and to share, where appropriate, relevant data and statistics with relevant agencies and bodies within the United Nations system, including the Statistical Commission, through appropriate mechanisms, and underlined the need to significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable disaggregated data.

B. Actions taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division

23. The work of the Statistical Commission on the data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (E/CN.3/2017/2), social statistics (E/CN.3/2017/11) and governance statistics (E/CN.3/2016/16) is relevant to measuring progress in advancing equality, social justice and participation for development policy planning, implementation and evaluation. The Commission considers these topics on an annual or biennial basis.

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[2] Statistics on Special Population Groups, Series Y, No. 10 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 01.XVII.15).

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Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-ninth session of the Commission

Draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission, 2017-2021

Note by the Secretariat

Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/51, the draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission for the period 2017-2021 is set out below. Reflecting comments from members and observers of the Commission and a review of its workplans by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the draft constitutes a revision of the draft multi-year programme of work for the period 2016-2020 (E/CN.3/2016/33), which was considered by the Commission at its forty-seventh session.

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Proposed multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission, 2017-2021

Agenda item	*Approximate current frequency*	*2017*	*2018*	*2019*	*2020*	*2021*
1. Demographic and social statistics						
(a) Demographic statistics/Population and housing censuses	Annual	X	X	X	X	X
(b) Human settlements statistics	5 years			X		
(c) Health statistics	2 years	X		X		X
(d) Disability statistics, including Washington Group on Disability Statistics	2 years		X		X	
(e) Social statistics	5 years	X				
(f) Gender statistics	2 years		X		X	
(g) Poverty statistics	10 years		X			
(h) Statistics on drugs and drug use	3 years	X			X	
(i) Crime statistics	3 years		X			X
(j) International migration statistics	5 years			X		
(k) Refugee statistics	2 years		X		X	
(l) Employment statistics	5 years		X			
(m) Education statistics	3 years	X			X	
(n) Culture statistics	5 years					X
(o) Household surveys	2 years	X		X		X
(p) Civil registration and vital statistics	2 years		X		X	
2. Economic statistics						
(a) National accounts	Annual	X	X	X	X	X
(b) Agricultural and rural statistics	2 years	X	X		X	
(c) Industrial statistics	3 years			X		
(d) Business registers, including Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers	2 years	X		X		X
(e) Energy statistics, including Oslo Group on Energy Statistics	2 years		X		X	
(f) International trade and economic globalization statistics[a]	Annual	X	X	X	X	X
(g) Service statistics, including Voorburg Group on Service Statistics	5 years		X		X	
(h) Information and communication technologies statistics	2 years		X		X	
(i) Tourism statistics	3 years	X			X	
(j) Finance statistics	2 years	X		X		X
(k) International Comparison Programme	Annual	X	X	X	X	X
(l) Price statistics, including Ottawa Group on Price Indices and Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics	2 years	X		X		X
(m) Statistics on science, technology and innovation	5 years		X			

Agenda item	*Approximate current frequency*	*2017*	*2018*	*2019*	*2020*	*2021*
(n) Informal sector statistics, including Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics	3 years		X			X
(o) Transformative agenda (2015 and later)	2 years	X		X		X
(p) Short-term economic indicators	3 years	X			X	
3. Natural resources and environment statistics						
(a) Environment statistics	2 years		X		X	
(b) Environmental-economic accounting, including London Group on Environmental Accounting	Annual	X	X	X	X	X
(c) Climate change statistics	5 years					X
(d) Statistics for economies based on natural resources, including Ulaanbaatar Group on Statistics for Economies Based on Natural Resources	2 years	X		X		X
4. Activities not classified by field						
(a) Coordination of statistical programmes	Annual	X	X	X	X	X
(b) Statistics of human development	5 years					X
(c) Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and principles governing international statistical activities	5 years	X	X	X		
(d) International statistical classifications	2 years		X		X	
(e) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata	2 years	X		X		X
(f) Presentation of statistical data and metadata	10 years				X	
(g) Statistical capacity-building	2 years	X		X		X
(h) Dissemination of statistics by Statistics Division/Statistics Division publications	5 years				X	
(i) Development indicators/Millennium Development Goals/Sustainable Development Goals	Annual	X	X	X	X	X
(j) Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council	Annual	X	X	X	X	X
(k) Working methods of the Statistical Commission	5 years			X		
(l) National quality assurance frameworks	2 years	X		X		X
(m) Integration of statistical and geospatial information	Annual	X	X	X	X	X
(n) Big data	Annual	X	X	X	X	X
(o) World Statistics Day	5 years				X	X
(p) Regional statistical development	Annual	X	X	X	X	X
(q) Governance, peace and security statistics, including Praia Group	2 years		X		X	
(r) Programme questions (Statistics Division)	Annual	X	X	X	X	X
Total number of items		**29**	**29**	**28**	**28**	**28**

[a] Includes international trade statistics and statistics on international trade in services.

Programme reviews (2003-2014)

2014: Broader measures of progress

2013: Integration of statistical and geospatial information

2012: Population and housing censuses

2011: Gender statistics

2010: National quality assurance frameworks

2009: Climate change and official statistics

2008: Employment statistics

2007: Education statistics

2006: Industrial statistics

2005: Energy statistics

2004: Social statistics

2003: Statistics of services